

Building a Summer Meals Coalition

A strong network of partnerships can be built by uniting a wide range of public and private partners towards a common goal of anti-hunger efforts. Anti-hunger advocacy organizations, food banks, after-school associations, community centers, local businesses and other State and local organizations are a few examples. Building a coalition of organizations with a like-minded focus helps facilitate access to healthy food for children and teens.

Below are a few examples of successful partnerships:

- **The Colfax Community Network (CCN):** In a two mile-stretch of Colfax Avenue in Denver, Colorado, an estimated 15, 000 children are eligible for free summer meals. The CCN, a collection of several Colorado organizations, recognized this need and partnered with a goal of feeding 1,000 children within this neighborhood.
- **Anti-Hunger Advocates:** In Oregon, the State agency works with the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, which conducts outreach to promote the State's 1-800 number that refers callers to local SFSP sites. The two also partnered to organize a video conference with Oregon's Governor to promote both summer food and afterschool suppers and snacks.
- **California Summer Meals Coalition:** A statewide network of 25 partner agencies united to increase access to the summer meals program. Partner organizations include school districts, food banks, food policy advocates, YMCAs and others. In 2013 the Coalition joined forces with the California Library Association to operate as summer sites for the program.
- **Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance:** The Alliance is a collection of businesses, churches, food banks and numerous other organizations joined together with a common mission of fighting hunger in the state. This group of united organizations joined forces with the Governor's office to help Arkansas achieve remarkable growth within the summer program over the most recent years.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.summermealcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CNAP-Guide-to-Summer-Meals.pdf>

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/statelocal-campaigns/building-coalition-end-childhood-hunger-your-community>



Summer Meals Toolkit

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